

for observation; it flew slowly; it kept to the same area; it alighted frequently and, when alighted, it kept its wings spread wide for easy identification.

For me, this the second sighting of an unusual "white" variation. In 1976 I took a *L. phlaeas* var *Schmidtii* in Cumbria. The interesting thing is that too was a year of a sustained hot, dry summer. Is there perhaps a direct connection with the summer temperature or is it simply that the hot summer brings our more butterflies and, therefore, more chance of variants?

Certainly, summer 1990 has been a good year. In that first seven days of August I noted 15 species of butterfly in the Walberswick area:— *P. brassicae*, *P. rapae*, *P. napi*, *I. io*, *V. atalanta*, *A. urticae*, *H. semele*, *M. jurtina*, *P. tithonus*, *C. pamphilus*, *L. megera*, *L. phlaeas*, *C. argiolus*, *P. icarus* and *T. sylvestris*.— G.G. BALDWIN, 22 Edgerton Grove Road, Huddersfield, W. Yorks HD1 5QX.

#### *Eudonia mercurella* (L.) (Lep.: Pyralidae) and Kidney Vetch

Mr J. Robbins has kindly pointed out a record held in the Warwickshire Biological Records Centre of a larva collected from Kidney Vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria* L., reared by the late Dr K.C. Greenwood and identified from the imago as *E. mercurella* by myself (*Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* **102**: 166). This is indeed unusual as of the fourteen British species in the subfamily Scopariinae listed by Goater (*British Pyralid Moths*, Harley Books (1986)), only two are known to feed on herbaceous plants and even then on the roots. However, the life histories of at least three of the species are unknown.

What is also unusual about this record, but not commented on in the previous note, is the capture of the larva in July. Emmet (*A Field Guide to the Smaller British Lepidoptera*, BENHS (1988, 2nd edn.)) gives September to April as the time of appearance of the larva.

These anomalies of foodplant and time of appearance are interesting as so little is known about this group of moths. Larvae in July, on a previously unknown foodplant, could perhaps explain the occurrence of imagines well into September, as does occur in many years. However, other explanations can be thought of for this record: a fully grown larva of *E. mercurella* displaced whilst searching out a pupation site and not actually feeding on Kidney Vetch or alternatively perhaps a pupa of *E. mercurella* inadvertently collected along with a larva of another species which itself subsequently failed to complete its life-cycle.

Unfortunately neither the data label on the specimen nor the notebooks of Dr Greenwood, now both held at the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry, detail whether the larva was full grown or whether it was collected and reared in a moss-lined container. However, the fact that Dr Greenwood, a very competent and well-respected lepidopterist, did not

publish this record himself, after I had confirmed its identification, suggests an element of doubt. This record I would therefore suggest is worthy of note as a stimulus to further investigation but not on its own is it evidence for a hitherto unknown larval pabulum.— RAY BARNETT, City Museum and Art Gallery, Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1RL.

**Two further Kentish specimens of *Pelosia muscerda* Hufn. (Lep.: Arctiidae), The Dotted Footman**

In search of *Scopula nigropunctata* Hufn. on 1st August 1990 at the Warren, Folkestone, Kent, the appearance of a male *P. muscerda* on the sheet (sitting next to an immaculate *S. nigropunctata*!) at 23.30 hours was most unexpected. To find another when emptying the traps in the morning was even more surprising. *Orthonama obstipata* Fab. was also seen, a male at about 24.00 hours, together with 30 - 40 *Autographa gamma* L. and one *Nomophila noctuella* D. & S. These observations together with the favourable weather conditions (light easterly winds with a minimum temperature of 16 degrees), the lack of suitable habitat locally and the occurrence of other specimens in Kent around this time must make migratory origin certain.

Previous records of this species in Kent are for resident populations: at Ham Fen near Deal at the end of the 19th century to 1911 and Appledore, July 1898 (Chalmers-Hunt, *Butterflies and moths of Kent* 2: 92-93); Fordwich, no date but "old" (*ibid.* 2: 362). More isolated records are Lydd, 1 at light 14.8.1965 (*ibid.* 2: 362); Longrope, Ham Street, 1 male at m.v. — 19.7.1969 (*ibid.* 3: 235); Orlestone Forest, Ham Street, 1, 16.7.1983 (Collins, *Ent. Rec.* 95: 222) and Bromley, 1 male at m.v. (Clarke, *Ent. Rec.* 96: 55).

On 4th August the site was revisited but apart from a strong flight of *A. gamma* shortly after dusk and one *Udea ferrugalis* Hübn. no more migrants were seen; the most interesting moth was a rather worn example of *Standfussiana lucerneae* L. at actinic.— Dr JULIAN CLARKE, Oaklea, Felcourt Road, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6NF.

***Evergestis limbata* L. (Lep.: Pyralidae) new to the British Isles**

I am pleased to record the capture of what I believe to be the first British specimen of *Evergestis limbata* L. which came to m.v. light on Guernsey on 18th July 1990. This attractive little pyralid is illustrated in Palm (1986) *Nordeuropas Pyralider* and has been recorded in the larval stage on *Sisymbrium* (rocket), *Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard), *Isatis tinctoria* (woad) and *Genista tinctoria* (Dyer's greenweed).

I am also pleased to record that further specimens of the Guernsey Underwing, *Polyphaenis sericata* and *Thera cupressata* have also been taken in my Guernsey garden.— T.D.N. PEET, Le Chene, Forest, Guernsey.